

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**PUBLIC NOTICE****Synopsis:**

The Clean Air Act requires the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set and revise National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment every five years. On March 12, 2008, EPA revised the primary (public health-related) and secondary (public welfare-related) NAAQS for ground-level ozone to 0.075 parts per million (ppm). Several areas of the State that are not meeting the new standards could be designated nonattainment. Local leaders, transportation/air quality planners, economic developers, industry officials, and others are encouraged to consider the health and regulatory implications of nonattainment, review EPA's boundary guidance, and provide comments to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (Department) to assist in determining what boundary recommendations will be made to the EPA.

Using boundary guidance from EPA, the State must recommend boundaries for areas that are not meeting the standard based on the most recent monitoring data. States wishing to propose larger or smaller boundaries than the Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) should address how the recommendations are consistent with the definition of nonattainment in Section 107(d)(1) of the Clean Air Act. Generally, CMSAs and MSAs share transportation, economic, population, and other similar air quality related factors that contribute to ground-level ozone formation more than other parts of the State. When an area is determined to have ozone concentrations exceeding the standard, the Department evaluates the technical air quality related factors contained in the boundary guidance to determine the recommended nonattainment area. The State's nonattainment area boundary recommendations are due to the EPA on March 12, 2009, and will be based on data from 2006 through 2008. The EPA will review the recommendations, provide comment back to the states and is expected to make final designations in March 2010. EPA's final designations will be based on data from 2007 through 2009.

Public Comment Period and Public Meeting:

Interested persons may submit written comments on the 2008 ground level non-attainment boundary recommendations during a public comment period from November 28, 2008 to January 7, 2009 by writing to L. Nelson Roberts, Jr. at the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Bureau of Air Quality, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201, or by calling (803) 898-4122, or by email to robertln@dhec.sc.gov.

Interested persons may also submit comments by attending a public meeting to be held by Department staff from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on January 7, 2009 in Room 1625 of the Aycock Building, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

All public comments must be received by the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 7, 2009, to be considered.